

Gingerbread House and Santa Nut Bowl

By Nanci Jarvis

Gingerbread houses, Santa Claus, nuts and nutcrackers are mainstays of Christmas tabletop and mantel decorations. Follow the instructions, and make these symbols of the season for your dollhouse.

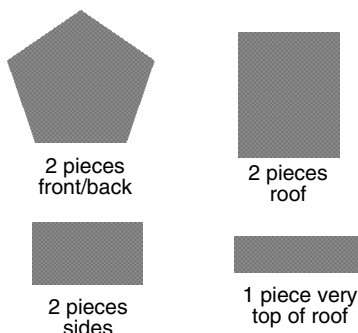


Gingerbread House

What You'll Need:

- Polystyrene meat tray
- Tacky Glue
- Craft acrylic paint, Brown, White
- Air-dry clay (I used Crayola Model Magic)
- Drinking straw
- Seed beads - Red, Green
- Sequins - White
- Silk from milkweed pod
- Iridescent white sparkle glitter
- Pencil

1. Trace pattern pieces onto polystyrene tray. Cut out.



2. Glue pieces together to form house. Optional: Glue a tiny strip to back of house to make a chimney. Paint brown.

3. Shape clay into a base. Allow to dry. Paint white.

4. Glue house to base.

5. Roll clay flat. Cut circles with end of straw. When dry, cut in half.

6. Glue half-circles to front of house at roof line. Glue red and green beads onto half-circles.

7. Roll flattened clay into a skinny snake. Curve snake to make door frame. Glue in place.

8. Glue red beads around door. Use one bead as a doorknob.

9. Glue white sequins (shingles) to rooftop.

10. Glue milkweed silk to back of house to look like smoke.

11. Using flat end of toothpick, apply thin layer of glue to base and sprinkle with glitter.



Santa Nut Bowl

What You'll Need:

- Air-dry clay (I used Crayola Model Magic)
- Bowl-shaped plastic about the diameter of nickel or the size of the cap on a Vicks Inhaler tube.
- Tacky Glue
- Craft acrylic paint - Red, Black, Gold, White.
- Round coffee stirrer or toothpick
- Paintbrush
- Straight pin

1. Press clay around domed plastic to create a bowl.

2. Roll two small balls for feet. Glue beneath bowl.

3. Shape one long, skinny piece for arms. Glue to rim of bowl.

4. Make a ball for head. Flatten slightly. Glue to center of long arm piece.

5. Flatten another piece of clay and shape into a beard. Use thumbnail to make indentations. Stick beard into bowl and smooth onto chin and along sides of face.

6. Shape another flat piece into cone for hat. Glue to top of head. Glue tiny ball of clay to end of hat.

7. Make small ball for nose, and shape two "snakes" into a moustache. Glue in place.

8. Flatten another ball and cut into a rectangle. Use coffee stir stick or small straw to cut out center for belt buckle, or dig out a circle and smooth edges using a toothpick. Glue buckle to front of bowl.

9. Paint all the red areas, let dry. Paint black areas. Dry. Paint white areas. Dry. Mix a little red into white to paint face. Dry. Use end of paintbrush to make two white dots for eyes. Dry. Use point of pin to make black irises and eyelashes. Dry. Use point of pin to paint mouth red. Paint belt buckle gold.

Nutcracker

What You'll Need:

- 2 flat toothpicks
- 2 seed beads
- Air-dry clay
- Acrylic craft paint - Silver, Brown
- Flower seeds approximately ¼" diameter (optional, for nuts)

1. Cut pointed ends of toothpicks to fit within bowl.

2. Make a small round piece of clay. Glue between pointed ends to make a hinge. Glue seed beads to opposite ends. Paint nutcracker silver.

3. To make nuts, roll tiny balls of clay and paint them brown. Glue into bowl. Optional: Use flower seeds as nuts. Leave some seeds natural; paint some brown. Glue into bowl.

4. Glue nutcracker on top of "nuts." ■

Nanci Jarvis delights in finding "free" things to use to make miniatures. Nanci lives in Michigan.